



News from your city



OUT & ABOUT

Take Flight. "I want people to feel the energy of birds flying," sculpture artist Cynthia McKean says of Sea Gulls, installed by the city and Friends of Downtown at Wabash Landing. "It's intriguing by day and dramatic at night, lighted from the inside," says West Lafayette mayor Jan Mills.

New Park Perks. Get outside this fall to enjoy West Lafayette's newest park features: more benches in Cumberland Park and Celery Bog Nature Area, extended Northwest Greenway Trail from Salisbury to Soldiers Home Road, new shelter in Dubois Park and climbing boulders at Tapawingo.

Welcome. New to town? We're glad you're here! Stop by City Hall, 609 W. Navajo, or call 775-5100 for our just-printed colorful brochure on all West Lafayette offers.

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SAGAMORE WEST

Dynamic New Look, Amenities

From the Wabash River to Win Hentschel Blvd., new sidewalks, trails, and upcoming gateways, lights and banners are transforming Sagamore West into a pedestrian-friendly, hot destination for community residents and visitors.

Banners, Lighting Next Spring

Watch for new lighting carrying welcoming banners, coming in the spring, then new gateway signs and landscaping at both Sagamore West entries, and an extension of the walking trail to Sagamore Ridge.

Also in the works: a beautification at the U.S. 52/ Northwestern Avenue interchange, where trees and bushes will be planted, thanks to a \$50,000 matching grant the city landed from the Indiana Department of Transportation.

"We didn't want to get caught up in studies. We wanted to get something in the ground, and we've done that, with more coming in the next couple of years."

Steve Hardesty, Hawkins Environmental

New Sidewalks In

Many feet of sidewalk extensions went in this spring and summer—along Town Square and across the street, with more coming this fall.

"We are completing the gaps," says Steve Hardesty, transportation engineer at Hawkins Environmental. "Some sidewalks were put in as development occurred. We're now filling in the pieces."

Also completed: numerous changes to crosswalk and traffic light timing, with more to come, and planting of new trees.

"We're making good progress getting things installed, getting some visible results," Hardesty says. "We didn't want to get caught up in studies. We wanted to get something in the ground, and we've done that, with more coming in the next couple of years."

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“It’s all positive, very positive,” says retailer Carol Casey. “We’ve made progress, and we have some new businesses. That is a good sign. Each day it’s getting better and better. I feel we’re aggressively moving forward.”

Community-driven

Like so many West Lafayette achievements, Sagamore West’s emerging new look is a story of resident requests, citizen involvement and city carry-through.

The dynamic, welcoming look began with 2003 meetings of the Sagamore Parkway Task Force, when interested residents created a vision for a new northern gateway and community gathering place.

They rolled out recommendations that became the Sagamore West Improvement Plan, which calls for new gateways, unified signage, landscaping, lighting, improved crosswalks, connections to trails, pocket parks and support of the newly formed Sagamore West Area Business Alliance.



Dragon boat races at 5th annual Wabash Riverfest, Tapawingo Park



West Lafayette Farmers' Market



Artist Louie Laskowski's Frog at Wabash Landing

YOURCITYATWORK

Spreading Out. With the West Lafayette Police Department settled in its new building, its former space on City Hall’s lower level is getting a modest remodel. Work includes restroom upgrades and addition of a conference room, break room and storage areas. Department offices will remain on the building’s first and second floors.

Engineers on the Job. Experts are seeking solutions to Lindberg Road’s uneven surface, believed to be caused by continued soil settling under the road. The Indiana Department of Transportation is assisting the city in potential resolutions. “What it will take to fix the road is not yet known,” says city engineer David Buck. “We will do whatever we can to ensure that a closure is not necessary. Since the new road is so wide, I don’t see that as necessary.”

Earth Care. Mayor Jan Mills is one of just 35 appointed by the president of the National League of Cities to serve a one-year term on the organization’s Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Advocacy Steering Committee. The group sets policy and advocates on behalf of the League.

Excellent! The West Lafayette Wastewater Treatment Plant achieved a top milestone this summer when the Indiana Water Environment Association named it a Laboratory of Excellence after the plant met numerous tough criteria. The city also landed its ninth consecutive Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers’ Association. Mayor Jan Mills cites a “tradition of openness, accuracy and clarity,” and clerk-treasurer Judy Rhodes says, “Our continued achievement helps maintain the most favorable debt-issuance terms for our city.”

SWABA

Sagamore West Area Business Alliance

The Sagamore West Area Business Alliance (dubbed “SWABA”) meets the third Wednesday of every month at Westminster Village, 2741 N. Salisbury St. Gather at 8 a.m. for coffee and pastries; the meeting begins at 8:15 a.m. For more information call Joe Boorman, 463-7546.

OURGOAL: Community, Service Improvements

West Lafayette’s strategic plan update, released this summer after three public forums drew more than 100 residents as planning participants, targets significant neighborhood, community and service enhancements.

In Your Neighborhood

Neighborhood priorities include stepped-up inspection and code enforcement, family housing development in the West Lafayette Community School Corporation district and new sidewalks and night lighting.

At School

In education, the plan encourages partnerships between area school corporations and development of West Lafayette High School as a magnet school.

“While the city does not operate the school corporations, we care deeply about our schools, making an open flow of communication and cooperation with the city important,” mayor Jan Mills said.

Community Vitality

To preserve and better the city’s vitality, key goals are expanding city support of public art and performances, improving transportation infrastructure and further promoting the city as a knowledge-centered community.

Also, the city’s services and fees will now be reviewed annually, to assure costs are covered.

“We also re-dedicated our commitment to working with the Wabash River Enhancement Corp. and to the Lafayette-West Lafayette Telecommunications Oversight Committee, which hopes to bring advanced telecommunications services to Tippecanoe County,” Mills said.

“We’ve set an ambitious course, but this community knows what it wants, and our strategic plan is the first and most important step in achieving our goals.”

Achievements Heralded

The forums also gave residents an opportunity to review progress since the strategic plan was last updated in 2002. The achievement list includes new recreational facilities and trails, completion of several planned developments, expansion of Purdue Research Park and improvements begun along the Sagamore West shopping area.

Nearly 30,000 people call West Lafayette home, with some 70 percent of adults holding bachelor’s degrees or higher. About 68 percent of the city’s nearly 12,000 housing units are renter-occupied.

Plan Available

Full text of the City of West Lafayette Strategic Plan Update, June 2005, is available at www.city.west-lafayette.in.us or by calling the West Lafayette Community Development Department, 775-5160.

West Lafayette, Indiana

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609 West Navajo Street
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ENHANCINGYOURCOMMUNITY

Take a Look. Make the new Wabash Heritage Trail Overlook in Tapawingo Park a frequent stop on your strolls. Head to the end of Brown Street for a dramatic new—and high—view of the river. Helping the city on this project: Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Lafayette Rotary, Lafayette Daybreak Rotary, Wabash River Enhancement Corp., Alcoa Foundation and Purdue landscape design and horticulture students.

Down by the Riverside. The Wabash River Enhancement Corp. board, which includes West Lafayette mayor Jan Mills, has hired Stanton Lambert as executive director to oversee enhancement of 2,000 acres along a 20-mile stretch of the Wabash River.

Recruiting Restaurants. You talk. We listen and act. When nearly 80 percent of West Lafayette residents responded to our 2005 survey with a request for “more sit-down restaurants” on Sagamore West, we alerted site selectors, also telling them about the 35,000 cars a day, our new sidewalks and coming community enhancements. We hope restaurants, too, will see the potential.



West Lafayette, Indiana